undertaking 9 projects on Build, Operate and Transfer basis.

These are at different stages of progress.

Sethu Samuthiram Project

104. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered the Central Eco-Engineering Research Institute to conduct a fresh study on the Sethu Samuthiram Project;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what is Government's view on the earlier report; and

(c) what is the time limit given to the said institute to submit its final report on the Project?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes Sir. The Ministry has decided to get the environment & feasibility study conducted for the Sethu Samundram Canal Project.

(b) The earlier study was conducted in 1981—83. It was basically a techno-economic feasibility study and did not address the environment issues. In view of the time lag, technological changes in dredging and environmental issues, the Ministry has decided to go ahead with a fresh environmental and feasibility study.

(c) The report on initial environmental examination is likely to be available by middle of next year.

Private investment in ports

105. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision to permit private participation in establishing and maintenance of ports in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the ports which have so far been identified;

(c) the number of ports renovated/maintained/improved together with the number of ports where the work is in progress by such participation or where work is in progress;

(d) what is the quantum of private investment in this work; and

(e) as a support of export have any private investments factually started in the 20-30 highway on BOT system as reported and by when they are expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. All 11 Major Ports have been identified for private sector participation in defined areas of port activity.

(c) and (d) A list of approved projects for private sector participation is enclosed at State (*See* below).

(e) No, Sir.

Statement

List of approved private sector participation projects

Leasing of existing berths/assets of the port

1. Leasing of berths No. 6 at Kandla Port to M/s. Geepee Corporation Limited, Bangkok for handling bulk and break bulk cargoes.

2. Leasing of berths at Haldia Dock Complex to Steel Authority of India Limited and TISCO.

3. Leasing of JD-1 berth at Madras Port.

4. Leasing of JD-5 berth at Madras Port.

Creation of storage facilities/warehouses

5. Leasing of land to M/s. SPIC for storage and despatch of LPG in Tuticorin Port.

6. Leasing of land to M/s. Suraj Agro Private Limited at Madras Port for